



GLANDERS

Agent Overview:	The causative agent of Glanders is the bacterium <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> , a faintly staining gram-negative coccobacillus.
Lab Specimen Submittal:	Authorization by Dr. Jane Getchell, DPHL director, Christina Pleasanton, DPHL deputy director, or Dr. Jack Liou, bioterrorism coordinator.
Type of Specimens Necessary for Testing:	<p>Environmental testing for culture: Use two dry Dacron swabs (not cotton) to collect specimen and put in two separate sterile tubes.</p> <p>Clinical specimen for culture and/or PCR: specimens for culture include blood, urine, abscesses, tissue aspirates. ONLY whole blood (EDTA), purple top tube, or serum, red/black top tube, may be submitted for PCR. If blood is submitted for PCR, a blood culture bottle must also be drawn to confirm the PCR result.</p> <p>Grown organism for culture and/or PCR from sentinel laboratory: referred organism on agar or in liquid media for rule-out testing or confirmation.</p>
Packaging Instructions:	<p>Environmental specimens must be double bagged and the outside of the bag decontaminated (10% bleach).</p> <p>Grown organisms or clinical specimens must be in unbreakable double containers and outside of container decontaminated (10% bleach).</p>
Receiving Specimens at DPHL:	Authorized specimens are accepted at the back of the building by the loading dock. Submitter must present ID and have proper forms completed.
Handling of Specimens:	Chain of custody procedures must be followed for environmental samples or any samples, specimens and materials that could be used as evidence in a legal proceeding. Environmental samples are kept at room temperature and clinical specimens at refrigerator temperature (in a cooler, but not frozen) until delivered to the laboratory.
Reporting Results:	<p><u>Preliminary:</u> A preliminary positive or negative test result is issued upon completion of PCR. PCR may take 24 hrs. <u>However, all PCR results must be confirmed by culture. PCR will detect both <i>Burkholderia mallei</i> and <i>Burkholderia pseudomallei</i>. Culture is necessary to differentiate between species.</u></p> <p><u>Negative:</u> Negative culture reports are issued after 4 days.</p> <p><u>Positive:</u> Positive culture reports may be issued as early as 4 days after submission</p>
Contact Information:	Jane Getchell, DrPH, DPHL director, 302-223-1520 (24/7 coverage).